



Bulova Byline
Chairman's Monthly Report
May 2009



- On Monday, April 20th, the Board of Supervisors “Marked-up” (amended) the County Executive’s Advertised **Budget for FY 2010**. Formal adoption followed a week later. I was very pleased that, during this extraordinarily difficult time, the vote on our Board was unanimous.

The final budget package was greatly enhanced through a Community Engagement process that began in September with a series of 20 Community Dialogue sessions through the County. The Dialogues provided County residents with briefings on our fiscal challenges and asked participants to name priorities and suggest areas they would be willing to see reduced, changed or eliminated. Additionally, our County workforce participated in numerous Brown Bag Lunch Budget Sessions and made recommendations for savings and efficiencies.

During this time, our Board conducted a Lines of Business Review, pouring through County services and programs with Agency and Department heads, who came to these sessions with potential reductions for us to consider. The School Board conducted a similar Program Review effort.

Once the County Executive’s FY 2010 Budget was advertised in February, about eighteen Town Meetings were conducted throughout the County and in each Magisterial District to solicit feedback on the proposed spending plan. Briefings at these meetings were conducted by both General County and School staff. Both County Supervisors and School Board Representatives participated in all of these activities. During public hearings on March 30, March 31, April 1 and 2, 288 people testified, many with constructive suggestions for the delivery of services.

The Budget we adopted on April 27th, held the line on taxes (a modest *decrease* of \$54.00 from FY 2009 for the average residential tax payer), established a Stormwater Service District at \$0.01 to address our County’s aging public works infrastructure, maintained funding for our Fairfax County Public Schools at the FY2009 level, reduced the budget for most County agencies and departments, kept all County salaries at '09 level, and reallocated funding in the Advertised Budget to restore cuts to critical human services and public safety programs. See inside this issue of the Byline, or go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/>

for more information regarding adoption of the budget.

- This year's Budget Process brought into focus a number of matters that members of our Board are interested in spending more time and thought on. Included in a unanimously agreed to **Budget Guidance** document is direction for topics to be discussed at a Board Retreat this summer. On our agenda will be:

1. A discussion of Board of Supervisors priorities for our term ending December 2011
2. The Penny for the Preservation of Affordable Housing Program
3. Fairfax County employee Pay for Performance compensation system
4. The FY 2011 Budget process
5. Opportunities to increase fiscal transparency

- You can't miss the significant amount of work underway on **Transportation Improvements** in Fairfax County. With full funding now in place for Phase 1 of Rail to Dulles, contractors are busily moving utilities in Tysons Corner and beginning work on the **Tysons Central Rt. 123 Metrorail Station**, located near the Galleria. More information on the Dulles Rail project can be found inside this Byline and by going to <http://www.dullesmetro.com/>



signature public art to create attractive transit facilities for the Tysons' community and traveling public.

Aesthetics matter. The new rail line (expected to be completed to Wiehle Ave. with operation of Metro service commencing in 2013) will run above ground over the medians of Routes 7 and 123 in Tysons. The four Stations in Tysons are planned to be integrated into and with new and existing commercial areas and *will include*

Planning is underway for Phase II of the Dulles Rail project, which will extend the new **Silver Line** all the way to Dulles Airport and into Loudoun County. Property owners in the Phase II corridor are in the final process of considering petitions to establish a Special Tax District so that stations can be constructed along the line to serve the Reston/Herndon area.



Work continues on the **Capital Beltway HOT Lanes Project**, which is transforming the beltway as we know it. The project replaces all bridges and sound walls and reconstructs interchanges to accommodate two additional lanes in both directions. Single occupant drivers will pay to access these express lanes, while carpoolers and motorcyclists can ride for free. The new lanes will provide capacity for express bus service in this corridor. Toll

payments will reimburse the Commonwealth of Virginia's private partners Fluor/TransUrban for the costs of construction.

A second HOT Lanes Project would provide new express lanes in the **I 95/395 Corridor**. This State project has not yet been approved. It would be built in two sections. The northern section will add an additional HOV lane for 28 miles from the Pentagon to Dumfries. The southern section will build two new HOV lanes another 28 miles south to Spotsylvania County.

Eventually these new lanes will allow express bus service as an alternative for motorists in the corridor. More information on the HOT Lanes Projects can be viewed at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/transportation/hotlanes/>

There's more! See inside this Byline for **other Transportation projects** that are planned or underway. *Knowledge is power.* To plan your travel around these large projects you can find up-to-date information by going to <http://www.vamegaprojects.com>

- See inside this Byline for information about **What's Happening on Campus** at both George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College. A new hotel and conference center is currently under construction at George Mason University and ground was just broken for a new Student Services Building at Northern Virginia Community College.

For those of you (or your children) who are trying to decide where you are going in life and what kind of an education you need to get there, try out the new web site **The Wizard** at www.vawizard.org This valuable application was unveiled in March at the medical Education Campus of NVCC.



- Lastly, my office is receiving regular updates on the outbreak of **Swine Flu (officially known as H1N1 Flu Outbreak)**. As of the writing of this Byline, no confirmed cases have been reported in Fairfax County. We are prepared for this outbreak and have opened a website and hotline for the public to call with questions and concerns. For information go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/swineflu.htm>

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Bulova". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Bulova
Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

2-1-1 VIRGINIA: PROVIDED BY CRISISLINK IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

A new resource is available to County residents that helps them navigate the often complex social services system, steering people to the right door the first time.

Need Help Finding Housing or Employment? Looking for Health Care Services? Simply dial 2-1-1, the new number to call to find the help you need. To learn more about this program, visit <http://www.crisislink.org/programs/211/index.html>

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET ADOPTION

The Budget at a Glance

- Real Estate Tax Rate of \$1.04 = a modest **decrease** in the average homeowner's real estate tax bill.
- \$3.33 billion General Fund Budget (Combined County and School Spending), a **decrease** of \$92.05 million (2.69%) from FY 2009.
- School Transfer of \$1.6 billion, **same as** FY 2009 level.
- For more information on the budget, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/>

At its April 27th meeting, in a unanimous 10-0 vote, the Board of Supervisors adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2010, which begins on July 1st. The Board did so at a time that is historic for the economic turmoil roiling throughout this Country and the world.

When we adopted our current FY 2009 budget, we did so believing that we were dealing with a severe economic downturn and a cyclical market correction of real estate values. We were beginning to see mortgage foreclosures, fueled by lack of regulation and irresponsible lending practices.

In April of 2008 we didn't know that just two months into the new fiscal year we would see the failure of this Country's major financial institutions – the fall of Lehman Brothers (the fourth largest investment firm in the U.S.), or Federal bailouts and take-overs of insurance giant AIG and lending giant Washington Mutual.

Some have labeled the ensuing economic breakdown as ***The Great Recession***. And it is with that backdrop that the Board adopted a budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1st. In Virginia, we are required to adopt a balanced budget. We do not have deficit spending. Looking ahead at Fiscal Year 2010, and recognizing the effect of falling property values on local revenue, we recognize that just to maintain our current level of services, we would come up short by almost \$650 million next year (approximately 19% of the County's \$3.3 billion budget). Our challenge was to close this projected shortfall while protecting the critical services and programs that our residents live here for and rely upon.

The FY 2010 plan adopted by the Board provides for a balanced budget that funds its key priorities and keeps the county focused on its long term goals. Total General Fund Disbursements are projected to total \$3.33 billion, a decrease of \$92.05 million or 2.69 percent from the FY 2009 Revised Budget Plan. The FY 2010 adopted budget includes a real estate tax rate of \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed value. In addition, a stormwater service fee of \$0.01 per \$100 assessed value is being imposed to provide support for stormwater operations and capital project activities. Coupled with a 12.6 percent decline in the average residential assessment, the resulting average tax bill will be a modest reduction of \$54.00 from the current fiscal year.

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Transfer remains at the FY 2009 level, \$1.6 billion. Funding for many of the County programs conducted in and for the Schools such as Head Start, School Resource Officers, and Clinic Room Aides are restored. The Schools have benefited from Federal Stimulus funds that will help to close the gap between this Transfer and the School Board's request. In addition, other savings including funding for fuel may be available to address this difference.

Of the \$106.4 million in reductions included in the county executive's proposed budget, the adopted budget restores \$22.73 million by reallocating funding budgeted for fuel (\$6.3 million), reducing some of the amount originally needed to absorb state cuts (\$5.1 million) and reallocating part of the penny for affordable housing (\$10.3 million) to restore critical human services and public safety programs. The net change in positions in FY 2010 is a decrease of 306 positions from FY 2009. The board's adopted budget restores 218 positions that were proposed to be eliminated in the county executive's advertised budget. These restored positions include:

- 60 positions for human services.
- 72 positions for the Fire and Rescue Department.
- 63 positions for the Police Department (including 28 for the School Resource Officer Program).
- 11 positions at the lakefront parks (Lake Accotink, Burke Lake and Lake Fairfax).
- 2 positions for the Mount Vernon Lockup.
- 2 watch officer positions for the Office of Emergency Management.
- 2 positions for air quality monitoring for the Health Department.
- 2 Planning Commission positions.
- 2 property maintenance/zoning inspector positions.
- 1 position at the David Pinn Community Center.
- 1 position at Green Spring Gardens Park.

Many people contacted me about the School Aged Child Care (SACC) program during the budget process. SACC is a great program that provides childcare with an educational element for many working families throughout the county, creating a quality care environment for children and allowing parents the time they need to work. The comments I received were overwhelmingly supportive of the program and I am pleased to say that the FY 2010 Adopted Budget provides funding for SACC programs at the new Coppermine and Laurel Hill Elementary Schools.

Difficult times often call for innovative solutions and the Board of Supervisors and the School Board have formed a Smart Savings Task Force to identify opportunities for savings and ways to streamline services across the county. This Task Force is investigating ways to consolidate or improve school and county functions and will continue its work now that the budget is complete.

SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS

While the Board of Supervisors approves the majority of the school budget through a lump sum "transfer," the Fairfax County School Board allocates the public school budget. They will be considering changes to the school budget throughout the month of May. At the May 7th School Board Meeting, the School Budget will be presented for new business. On May 12th and 13th, the School Board will hold public hearings on their FY 2010 Budget. The School Board will adopt a budget for FY 2010 on May 21.

If you are interested in speaking at the public hearings, please contact the School Board at 571-423-1075 or sign-up online. Public hearings are held at Luther Jackson Middle School, located at 3020 Gallows Road in Falls Church and start at 6 pm. Speakers will have three minutes to present and are expected to provide twenty written copies of their remarks to distribute to the School Board and staff. If you would like to submit written testimony instead of speaking at the public hearing, please mail it to the School Board Office, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Suite 5400, Falls Church, VA 22042, or e-mail the School Board at SchoolBoardMembers@fcps.edu.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

Rail to Dulles

Construction has started on Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. In the coming weeks, residents along the 11-mile alignment from west of the East Falls Church Metro to Wiehle Avenue will see construction activities.

Construction currently is centered along Route 123, International Drive, Galleria Drive and Tysons Boulevard. This area also contains the site where tunnel construction has started and where the Tysons Central 123 Station will be built.



Project Overview

Phase 1

- 5 new stations; 11.6 miles
- From the existing Orange Line between the East and West Falls Church Metro stations to Wiehle Avenue in Reston
- Pedestrian bridges, escalators and elevators at all stations

Phase 2

- 6 new stations; 11.5 miles
- Continuing to Route 772 in Loudoun County with additional stations at Reston Parkway, Monroe Street (Herndon), Route 28, Dulles Airport, and Route 606
- Direct access to Dulles Airport terminal

Construction Hotline

Residents may reach the project hotline number 24 hours a day (877-585-6789) to report problems.

Project Team

The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project is being built and managed by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. Dulles Transit Partners is the design-build contractor. For more information, visit www.dullesmetro.com.

Upcoming Transportation Projects

Annandale Road/Kerns Road

Scoping for intersection improvements including left and right turn lanes.

Fairfax County Parkway/Sunrise Valley Drive

Scoping for the addition of a dual left turn lane on northbound Fairfax County Parkway at Sunrise Valley Drive.

Richmond Highway Intersection Improvements

Scoping for pedestrian signalization, sidewalk, crosswalk and bus stop improvements on Route 1 at Frye Road and Kings Highway.

Route 29 Trail

Scoping for an asphalt concrete trail along westbound Route 29 from Stevenson Street to Holly Avenue.

West Ox Road/Fairfax County Parkway

Scoping for the extension of the right turn lane on southbound Fairfax County Parkway and the addition of a dual left turn lane on northbound Fairfax County Parkway at West Ox Road.

TRANSFORMING TYSONS

Last month I attended the signing of the Full Funding Grant Agreement for the first phase of the Dulles Rail project. Construction of the Silver Line has already begun. This project includes the construction of four metro stations in Tyson's Corner. This project will provide the County with a historic opportunity. The County will be able to create a planned transit oriented, green, walkable, multi-use urban community.

Last fall the Tyson's Land Use Task Force presented the Board with a Report that included their recommendations for a future vision and area wide recommendations for development of Tyson's Corner. This Report was accepted by the Board and staff and the Planning Commission has been directed to develop detailed comprehensive plan text for the entirety of Tyson's Corner, guided by the Area Wide Recommendations of the Task Force, the population and employment forecasts developed by George Mason University, the transportation and other public facility impact analyses and fiscal analyses. Staff has completed draft "Straw Man" Plan Text. This document is currently being revised to reflect the results of additional analyses, and is being reviewed by the Planning Commission's Tyson's Corner Committee, and the Task Force's Draft Review committee. This "Straw Man" draft represents a significant step by County staff in translating the work of the Task Force into Plan text. However, as stated by Staff, many issues still need to be resolved at a more refined and informed level to implement the Task Force's Guiding Principles for Tysons.

With the arrival of rail imminent and the construction of the project underway the County now has the opportunity to develop Tyson's Corner in a way that is consistent

with the Task Force's Guiding Planning Principles.

At our March 30th Board Meeting Supervisors Hudgins, Smyth, McKay, Foust and I made a motion that will allow for the phased redevelopment of Tyson's Corner to begin this summer. This motion will allow for one or more of the "landing sites" that immediately surround a station to be redeveloped as a demonstration of the transformation of Tyson's.

Specifically, we directed staff to work with the Planning Commission to begin developing a set of screening criteria to facilitate the evaluation and selection of applications for consideration as one or more demonstration projects, recommend a process for reviewing the demonstration projects and integrating information derived from the projects with the development of both area wide and district specific plan text. The deadline for developing the area wide plan text was set for Fall of 2009.

Are You 50 or Better?

Come to the *Lunch N' Life* sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday, May 21, 2009 (12:00-2:00 p.m.) at St. Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax. I will be presenting the program: "The Fairfax County Asian-American History Project," highlighting the experiences of Asian-Americans in Fairfax County. May has been designated as *Asian Pacific American Heritage Month*. Seating is limited. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry, (703) 620-0161, by May 14. The cost is \$8.00; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office (703) 323-4788.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS



George Mason University

Construction of a 150 room hotel and 20,000 square feet conference center is underway. The Mason Inn Conference Center/Hotel is scheduled for completion and occupancy in July 2010.

Spring Commencement will be Sat., May 16th at 10 am at the Patriot Center. Congratulations to the graduates of Spring 2009!

Northern Virginia Community College

On April 24th, I was pleased to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony for the latest expansion of Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus. This new addition, a student services building, will provide additional classroom space, allow for expansion of the Campus' Police Department and provide a Barnes and Noble Book Store and Café that will also open to the surrounding community. Construction should be completed in the next 18 months.

Spring Commencement will be Tues., May 12th at 7pm at the Patriot Center. I'm very honored to have been asked to be the Keynote Speaker and look forward to sending-off the class of 2009!

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LITERATURE



Fairfax County is one of nine local governments nationwide to win a Public Library Innovation Grant from the International City/County Management Association. The grant of \$34,450 will allow Fairfax County Public Library to continue offering its award-winning Changing Lives Through Literature program in partnership with the Virginia Department of Corrections and the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Services.

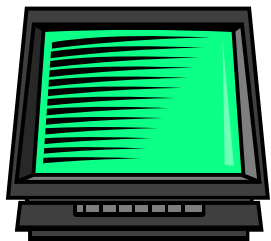
Changing Lives Through Literature offers an alternative to formal court action or is a requirement as part of the Recidivist Prevention Program for Fairfax County offenders that uses the power of literature to transform lives through reading and group discussion. Literature and discussions are effective, proven tools for reducing recidivism at minimum cost. During the process, offenders develop better verbal and listening skills, undergo self-reflection and learn how to become better citizens.

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

On May 29, 2009, I'm honored to be able to speak at Fairfax County's first-ever Naturalization ceremony here in the Government Center. Members of the Fairfax County Asian American History Project Task Force have been working with the Federal Government to ensure that this event will be special for all involved.

The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the Board Auditorium, and will include the naturalization ceremony, the national anthem, remarks and a presentation of the candidates to become new Americans. This will be followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a reception with light refreshments. This ceremony is being sponsored by Cox Communications.

FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING



**Sunday, May 17, 10am – 3pm at
I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Rd.,
Fairfax**

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will host “Electric Sunday” on Sunday, May 17. Fairfax County residents will be able to recycle televisions, computers and peripheral electronic devices from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax. This is a free service available only to Fairfax County residents. Devices from businesses will not be accepted at these events.

This event is limited to the collection of televisions, computers and peripheral electronic devices – including keyboards, speakers, printers, external drives and other such materials. Residents should not bring small or large kitchen appliances, CDs, DVDs, video cassettes or stereo equipment to these events. Items brought for recycling do not need to be in working order.

For complete details on these and other 2009 environmental events being planned and hosted by the Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program, including information about materials collected and inclement weather cancellations, please check the calendar of events on our web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling, or call 703-324-5250, TTY 711.

NEW SOUTH VAN DORN STREET SIDEWALK

A new sidewalk was recently completed on South Van Dorn Street between Greendale Village Drive/King Centre Drive and Telegraph Road in Fairfax County. The new sidewalk begins at the terminus of the existing five foot sidewalk approximately 300 feet south of the Greendale Village Drive intersection. The sidewalk provides a missing link between the Kingstowne Center and Telegraph Road to the south.

This sidewalk provides a safe means for residents to walk along South Van Dorn Street. It affords residents a greater quality of life by increasing their pedestrian-friendly options in the Lee District.

The South Van Dorn Street Pedestrian Walkway is a Fairfax County spot improvement project implemented by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services in cooperation with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation. The project consists of providing approximately 2,800 feet of six-foot concrete sidewalk, and handrail at certain sections along the west side of South Van Dorn Street. Construction was awarded in December 2008 and was substantially completed in April 2009, on time and within budget.

“Pedestrian and trail connections are very important and I am very pleased that we've been able to add a sidewalk to this section of South Van Dorn Street,” said Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay. “We're taking another step toward making Lee District one of the most pedestrian-friendly districts in Fairfax County.”